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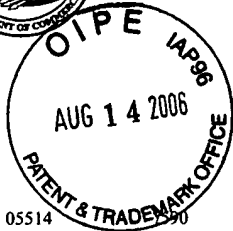
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

05514 08/07/2006
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

SHAH, AMEE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 08/07/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,162	02/13/2001	Kazuma Sato	862.C2116	9463

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD, SYSTEM AND MEDIUM FOR REMOTELY MANAGING PLURAL IMAGE FORMING APPARATUSES AND PLURAL TYPES OF MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE APPARATUSES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	11/07/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

05514 7590 08/07/2006

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,162	02/13/2001	Kazuma Sato	862.C2116	9463

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD, SYSTEM AND MEDIUM FOR REMOTELY MANAGING PLURAL IMAGE FORMING APPARATUSES AND PLURAL TYPES OF MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE APPARATUSES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	11/07/2006

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
SHAH, AMEE A	3625	705-029000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

SHAH, AMEE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 08/07/2006

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 748 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 748 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/781,162

Examiner

Amee A. Shah

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Remarks and Amendments filed May 5, 2006, and Examiners Amendment of July 12, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 4-16.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060712.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Magluyan, Esq., on July 12, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title

The title has been changed to:

--Method, system and medium for remotely managing plural image forming apparatuses and plural types of maintenance agreements relating to the apparatuses--.

In the Claims

At claim 1, line 9: "apparatuses" has been replaced with --apparatus--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1:

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a remote managing system for managing plural image forming apparatuses and plural types of maintenance agreements relating to the image forming apparatuses comprising: a receiver that receives information of a number of printed paper sheets output by an image forming apparatus, together with an identifier of the image forming apparatus, via a communication path; a memory that stores a variety of unit prices per paper sheet to be output by each of the image forming apparatuses, wherein each of the variety of unit prices is associated with an identifier of an image forming apparatus and a type of maintenance agreement for the image forming apparatus; and a calculation section that calculates a payable amount for an image forming apparatus having the identifier on the basis of (i) the number of printed paper sheets received by said receiver, associated with the identifier and (ii) a unit price of the variety of unit prices, stored in said memory, associated with the identifier and the type of maintenance agreement for the image forming apparatus (*see claim 1*).

The most closely applicable prior art of record is referred to in the Office Action mailed January 10, 2006, as "Farrell" (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,129). Farrell discloses similar structural components and functionality of receiving the number of printed paper sheets output by an image forming apparatus, storing a variety of unit prices per paper sheet, and calculating a payable

Art Unit: 3625

amount based on the number of printed sheets and a unit price of the variety of unit prices. However, Farrell does not anticipate or fairly and reasonably teach managing plural image forming devices, receiving the number of paper sheets along with an identifier of an image forming apparatus, storing a variety of unit prices associated with an identifier of the image forming apparatus, and calculating a payable amount based on the number of printed sheets associated with the identifier and the unit price associated with the identifier and type of maintenance agreement.

Newly cited U.S. Patent No. 7,061,634 B1 (hereafter referred to as "Ogura") discloses a system and method for supervising image forming apparatuses including a plurality of images forming apparatuses connecting through communication lines to a central control apparatus wherein usage information such as the total number of image formed sheets per image forming apparatus is transmitted to and stored in the central control apparatus (*see* Abstract, Figures 36 and 37, col. 11, lines 35-60, and col. 26, lines 6-15). However, Ogura does not anticipate or fairly and reasonably teach storing a plurality of unit prices per paper sheet or calculating a payable amount for an image forming apparatus based on the usage and the unit price associated with the identifier. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified the system and method Farrell with the teachings of Ogura to manage a plurality of apparatuses, to receive usage information (i.e. number of printed sheets) per image forming apparatus, and then to calculate a payable amount based on the usage and unit price associated with each identifier.

Art Unit: 3625

Newly cited U.S. Patent No. 5,708,909 (hereafter referred to as “Yamashita”) discloses an equipment management system in which electric photocopiers are linked through a network (i.e. a communication path) with a host computer at a maintenance company and another host computer at a lease company wherein data including the copier identification (ID), maintenance agreement information and the total count of copies provided by the copier are transmitted to the maintenance company host computer, and data regarding the total count are transmitted from the maintenance host to the lease company host. However, Yamashita does not anticipate or fairly and reasonably teach storing this data or performing calculations based on the usage and unit prices associated with each device. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified the system and method Farrell with the teachings of Yamashita to manage a plurality of apparatuses, to receive usage information (i.e. number of printed sheets) per image forming apparatus, and then to calculate a payable amount based on the usage and unit price associated with each identifier.

Claim 7.

Claim 7 recites a remote managing method of calculating a charge for use of each of a plurality of image forming apparatuses by a user. The method comprising the steps consistent with and parallel to the limitations of claim 1. This method is allowable over the prior art for reasons consistent with those identified above with response to claim 1.

Claim 12.

Claim 12 recites an article of manufacture comprising a computer program stored in a computer-readable medium for a remote managing method for calculating a charge for use of each of a plurality of image forming apparatuses by a user. As discussed in the Office Action mailed May 31, 2005, the program is interpreted to be executable by a computer (*see* Specification, page 88, lines 22-23) and is therefore statutory under 32 U.S.C. §101. The medium when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform the method steps for executing commands to perform operations comprising steps which are consistent with and parallel to the limitations of claim 1. This article of manufacturer method is allowable over the prior art for reasons consistent with those identified above with response to claim 1.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Author unknown, "Lexmark Launches MarkTrack Printer Software to Slash Printing Costs," M2 Presswire, Coventry, Sep. 10, 1999, pg. 1, discloses software for managing plural image forming apparatuses that captures information on location, usage and condition of networked apparatuses from a single point.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

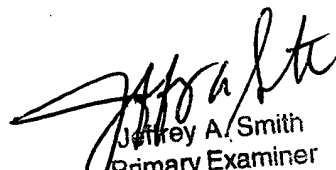
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amee A. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-8116. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AAS

July 12, 2006


Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner
Acting SPE
AU 3625

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No. 09/781,162	Applicant(s) SATO ET AL.	
	Examiner Amea A. Shah	Art Unit 3625	

All Participants:

Status of Application: Pending

(1) Amea A. Shah.

(3) _____

(2) John Magluyan.

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 12 July 2006

Time: _____

Type of Interview:

- ☒ Telephonic
☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal (Copy given to: ☐ Applicant ☐ Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, provide a brief description:

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:

Claims discussed:

1

Prior art documents discussed:

Part II.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

See Continuation Sheet

Part III.

- ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.
☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed: Discussed Examiner's amendments to claim 1 to change "apparatuses" in line 9 of claim 1 to --apparatus-- and change the title to Method, system and medium for remotely managing plural image forming apparatuses and plural types of maintenance agreements relating to the apparatuses. Mr. Magluyan confirmed that the changes were acceptable..

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/781,162		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination SATO ET AL.	
	Examiner Amea A. Shah		Art Unit 3625	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-5,383,129	01-1995	Farrell, Michael E.	705/400
*	B	US-5,708,909	01-1998	Yamashita et al.	399/8
*	C	US-7,061,634 B1	06-2006	Ogura et al.	358/1.15
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	Author unknown, "Lexmark Launches MarkTrack Printer Software to Slash Printing Costs," M2 Presswire, Coventry, Sep. 10, 1999, pg. 1.
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Databases selected: Multiple databases...

LEXMARK: Lexmark launches MarkTrack printer software to slash printing costs

M2 Presswire. Coventry: Sep 10, 1999. pg. 1

Publication title: M2 Presswire. Coventry: Sep 10, 1999. pg. 1

Source type: Wire feed

ProQuest document ID: 45073312

Text Word Count 544

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=45073312&sid=4&Fmt=3&clientid=19649&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

M2 PRESSWIRE-10 September 1999-LEXMARK: Lexmark launches MarkTrack printer software to slash printing costs (C)1994-99 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD * Investigating printing costs made elementary... my dear, Watson! Lexmark International, the world number two laser printer company, is announcing today the launch of MarkTrack software, which enables companies to analyse their printing habits so as to effectively manage their investment and recover costs. Lexmark developed the software over the last 18 months in response to customer demand.

MarkTrack tracks SNMP-compliant printers, collects, analyzes and creates reports using job statistics data. It can be used to allocate printing costs, to create an inventory of network printer assets automatically, to analyze printing for the enterprise and to plan ahead for supplies purchases, maintenance schedules and printer replacement. MarkTrack captures information about the location, usage, utilisation and condition of networked printers from a single point and catalogs all the data on a relational database. MarkTrack can also be used to allocate printing costs to cost centres, organisational divisions or office buildings.

Full Text (544 words)

Copyright M2 Communications Ltd. Sep 10, 1999

M2 PRESSWIRE-10 September 1999-LEXMARK: Lexmark launches MarkTrack printer software to slash printing costs (C)1994-99 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD * Investigating printing costs made elementary... my dear, Watson! Lexmark International, the world number two laser printer company, is announcing today the launch of MarkTrack software, which enables companies to analyse their printing habits so as to effectively manage their investment and recover costs. Lexmark developed the software over the last 18 months in response to customer demand.

"The information generated by MarkTrack is vital for a company wishing to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their printing. Which, when you consider that the printing costs for most companies is between 6 and 15% of the bottom-line", makes this an extremely powerful business tool", commented Graham Salmons, marketing director of Lexmark.

"Lexmark is continually working towards creating printing solutions to meet the needs of its customers. MarkVision builds on this dedication", concluded Salmons.

MarkTrack tracks SNMP-compliant printers, collects, analyzes and creates reports using job statistics data. It can be used to allocate printing costs, to create an inventory of network printer assets automatically, to analyze printing for the enterprise and to plan ahead for supplies purchases, maintenance schedules and printer replacement. MarkTrack captures information about the location, usage, utilisation and condition of networked printers from a single point and catalogs all the data on a relational database. MarkTrack can also be used to allocate printing costs to cost centres, organisational divisions or office buildings.

Reports can be produced instantaneously with analysis from just about any aspect required - time of day, origin of the jobs, size of job, printer type, etc. - and can be viewed using a web server/browser. Cost analysis of these different factors brings to light where printers could be more effectively used and can encourage cost saving habits.

For example, a marketing department may use on average 2,00 sheets of paper per day. The average paper tray holds only 250 sheets of paper. This means that the paper needs to be refilled at least eight times per day. By adding four extra paper trays, the paper only needs to be refilled once each day, dramatically reducing the disruption caused and time wasted.

MarkTrack resides on a Windows NT server running TCP/IP - and not on the production server. An important feature of MarkTrack is that it ensures a realistic picture of printer usage and does not depend on how users have logged on to their system as it takes information directly from the printer.

Reports can be viewed using a standard web browser and so, if required, it can be accessed from a remote office. MarkTrack

supports non-Lexmark printers using SNMP.

* Source: The Gartner Group, The Ashburnham Group and CA Venture Group Notes to editors: Lexmark International, Inc. a global developer, manufacturer and supplier of printer solutions and products, including laser, inkjet and dot matrix printers an associated consumable supplies for the office and home markets. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Lexmark International Group, Inc.

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